

The table below shows the area (rounded to the nearest 5 acres) at each census of the several infestations:

	1936	1947	1958
Eastern Zone	170	570	885
Lighthouse	—	10	145
Cape Vlaming	—	15	125
Stark Bay	—	—	10
TOTAL	170	595	1165

No account has been taken in the surveys of the density of the snails, which varies locally from some score to fewer than one per square yard. Generally the most heavily infested areas are those supporting a dense growth of the introduced onion-weed (*Asphodelus fistulosus*). However the snail does occur in localities where this plant is absent, e.g., Cape Vlaming.

At present no explanation can be offered for the failure of the snails to spread westwards from the 1947 front between Lakes Bagdad and Serpentine or into the Point Clune peninsula. The first line at least, does not correspond with any known factor of soil or vegetation. The snail population along this front is very sparse and it is possible that excessive predation is hampering their occupation of the country to the west of Forbes Hill. The introduced Pheasant, *Phasianus colchicus*, and the frog, *Helioporus eyrei*, eat snails and are both very numerous in this locality. However, no such explanation will suffice for the absence of the snails on the Point Clune peninsula, which is unoccupied by pheasants and frogs.

The indigenous snail, *Bothriembryon melo* (= *bulla*) has become rare or extinct in the areas invaded by *Theba*. Immediately beyond the limits of *Theba* it is still quite common, e.g., north of Lighthouse Hill and on the Point Clune peninsula. The relations between these two molluscs and the factors affecting the spread of *Theba* obviously require further study.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Yellow-billed Spoonbill at Bunbury.—In the *W.A. Nat.*, 6 (6): 151 E. H. Sedgwick records the Yellow-billed Spoonbill (*Platalea flavipes*) at a pool on the Brunswick-Australind Road. On August 25, 1958, I saw a Yellow-billed Spoonbill, in company with three Royal Spoonbills (*P. leucorodia*), on a swamp by the edge of the Bunbury-Australind road about a quarter of a mile on the Australind side of the Collie River and on the opposite side of the road to the Lesehenault Estuary. We had a good view of the birds from a distance of about 30 feet and watched them closely for about five minutes.

We were very interested in the record in view of the statement in Serventy and Whittell's *Birds of Western Australia* that the Yellow-billed species had not been reported south of Moora.

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